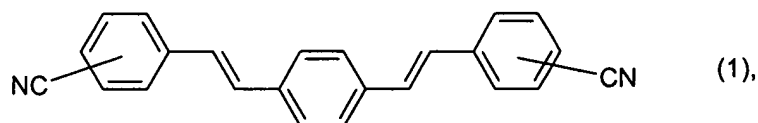


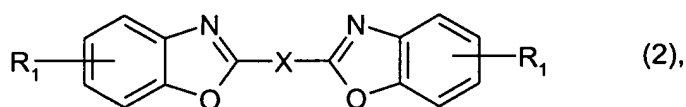
IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the original claims listing by the following claims listing.

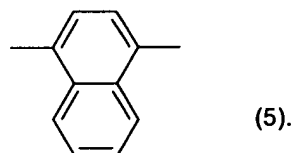
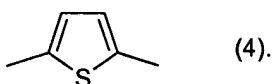
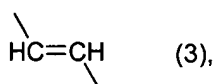
1. (original): A mixture of fluorescent whitening agents comprising 11 to 20 % by weight of a compound of formula



and 80 to 89 %by weight of one or more compounds of formula

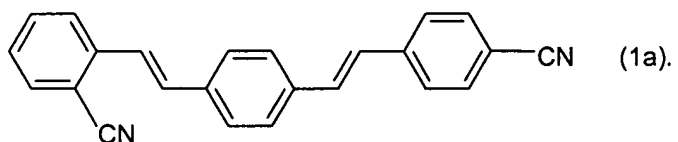


wherein R₁ denotes hydrogen, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₅-C₁₄aryl or C₆-C₂₄aralkyl and X is a bivalent radical of formula (3), (4) or (5)

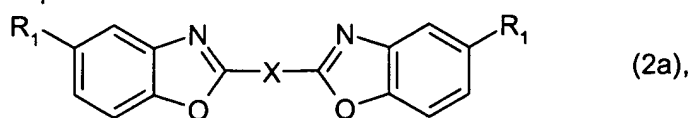


2. (original): A mixture according to claim 1 comprising 13 to 17 % by weight of the compound of formula (1) and 83 to 87 % of the compound of formula (2).

3. (currently amended): A mixture according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 comprising a compound of formula (1a)



4. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 comprising a compound of formula (2a)



wherein R₁ and X are as defined in claim 1.

5. (original): A mixture according to claim 4 comprising a compound of formula (2a) wherein R₁ denotes hydrogen or C₁-C₆alkyl.

6. (original): A mixture according to claim 4 comprising a compound of formula (2a) wherein R₁ denotes methyl and X is a bivalent radical of formula (3).

7. (original): A mixture according to claim 4 comprising a compound of formula (2a) wherein R₁ denotes hydrogen and X is a bivalent radical of formula (4).

8. (currently amended): A composition, which contains water, ~~mixtures a mixture~~ of fluorescent whitening agents according to ~~any one claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 and, optionally, auxiliaries.

9. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 8 containing water and, ~~in each case based~~ on the total weight of the formulation, from 3 to 25% by weight, ~~preferably from 10 to 20% by weight~~ of the ~~above defined~~ fluorescent whitening agent mixture and 0 to 60%, ~~preferably 5 to 50% by weight,~~ of auxiliaries.

10-11. (cancelled).

12. (new): A composition according to claim 9 containing water and, based on the total weight of the formulation, from 10 to 20% by weight of the fluorescent whitening agent mixture and 5 to 50% by weight of auxiliaries.

13. (new): A method of whitening synthetic fibres, which comprises contacting said fibres in an aqueous medium with a fluorescent whitening agent mixture according to claim 1.

14. (new): A method of whitening synthetic fibres, which comprises contacting said fibres in an aqueous medium with a fluorescent whitening agent composition according to claim 8.

15. (new): A method according to claim 13, wherein the synthetic fibres comprise polyester fibres.

16. (new): A method of whitening synthetic fibres, which comprises contacting said fibres in an aqueous medium with a fluorescent whitening agent mixture according to claim 3.